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File Ref F/8
Your Ref
Date 11th June 2007

Sandra Carey
Scottish Executive
Planning Division
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Dear Madam

**DRAFT STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT -
CONSULTATION PAPER**

I refer to the above document which was considered by the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee at its meeting held on 11th June 2007.

The Joint Committee consider the consultation paper and provides ample demonstration of the Joint Committee's own sustainable development credentials. The Structure Plan's Metropolitan Development Strategy manages metropolitan growth and defines clear priorities for regeneration, urban and rural, taking advantage of existing or planned public transport infrastructure, and sets this in a context of strategic environmental action to improve quality of place - the essentials of a sustainable development approach as set out in this consultation paper. A copy of the Joint Committee's report is enclosed for your attention.

I also enclose a completed responded information form as requested.

Yours faithfully

Dr. Grahame Buchan
PP **Dr. Grahame Buchan**
Structure Plan Manager

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Statutory Guidance on Planning and Sustainable Development

Introduction

- 1 In March 2007, the Scottish Executive published a Consultation Paper entitled - '*Statutory Guidance on Planning and Sustainable Development*'. The deadline for responses to this consultation is 22nd June 2007.

The Aim and Focus of the Consultation

- 2 Both the UK Government and its subsidiary administrations throughout the UK, are signatories to the principles of Sustainable Development (SD). Consistently Scottish Executive publications have expressed their commitment to these principles. The new Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 equally commits the Planning system to adopting these principles and demonstrates how the Development Plan system can contribute to the delivery of SD.
- 3 This Scottish Executive Consultation Paper seeks both to define SD and to provide guidance specifically on how the Development Plan system can deliver it.
- 4 As part of this objective, the document also advises upon ways in which the Scottish Executive believes that the Planning system can address climate change as part of the Joint Committee's commitment to explore how strategic planning can make its contribution at the metropolitan scale. Essentially, the guidance views steps towards SD as synonymous with addressing climate change.

Specific Content

- 5 The key focus of this guidance is the issue of the location of development and its significance to SD. The document explores the five principles of SD, the relationship of Development Planning to these principles, the factors to be considered in locating development in sustainable locations, and the key mechanisms for delivering SD through the Planning system.

Observations

- 6 This consultation paper, perhaps for the first time, clearly sets out the Scottish Executive's definition and understanding of SD and the key role that the Development Plan system can play in achieving it.
- 7 It identifies planning as an activity which addresses the integration of the three key pillars of SD - economic, social and the environmental. Also, it highlights the integration between Planning and Transport as a key step in addressing SD, reinforcing the message of Scottish Planning Policy 17 - Planning and Transport. In looking at settlement strategies and the location of development, the guidance sets out the following range of locational factors which should be considered in the Development Plan process, namely

- potential of existing settlements to accommodate development;
 - need for urban regeneration;
 - quality of place;
 - need for rural development and regeneration;
 - a reduction in the need to travel and a need to encourage public transport usage;
 - need to re-use existing buildings, where possible;
 - promotion of higher development densities in key locations;
 - enhancement and maintenance of open space;
 - protection of cultural heritage;
 - enhancement and protection of the natural environment;
 - effective management of waste;
 - protection from development of the functional flood plain; and
 - capacity of existing infrastructure
- 8 Whilst the consultation paper does not introduce any new analytical factors in the above list - these are all aspects of Scottish Executive guidance already published in thematic guidance such as Scottish Planning Policy or Planning Advice Notes - yet the integration of these themes of SD into formal guidance on the subject is an invaluable step in giving real clarity to understanding SD and in particular in demonstrating the pivotal integrating role of the Development Plan system.
- 9 The consultation paper confirms and provides ample demonstration of the Joint Committee's own SD credentials. The Metropolitan Development Strategy, both in the Approved 2000 Plan and the 2006 Third Alteration, which is currently before Scottish Ministers, is built upon an application of the above themes. It manages metropolitan growth and defines clear priorities for regeneration, urban and rural, taking advantage of existing or planned public transport infrastructure, and sets this in a context of strategic environmental action to improve quality of place - the essentials of an SD approach as set out in this consultation paper.
- 10 Two additional themes emerge in this consultation which are part of the Scottish Executive's modernisation agenda and which the Executive view as vital aspects of SD. These themes are also significant for the Joint Committee in its future work on the Strategic Development Plan. These are (i) enhanced community engagement and consultation processes (a recent Planning Advice Note, No. 81 - Community Engagement) has been published by the Scottish Executive; and (ii) a focus on action planning.
- 11 The Joint Committee has considered its 'action plan' requirements on a number of occasions, and has formally established an approach based upon specific 'thematic action programmes'. Methodologies have been developed for a number of these programmes. Further guidance on action planning is expected from the Scottish Executive as part of the secondary legislation on the new Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006. In respect of Community Engagement and Consultation, this issue will be developed in a 'Participation Statement' during 2007 for the new Strategic Development Plan.

Recommendation

- 12 It is recommended that the Joint Committee agree this paper as the basis of its formal response to this Scottish Executive consultation.

Dr. Grahame Buchan
Structure Plan Manager

RESPONDEE INFORMATION FORM: *Draft Statutory Guidance on Planning and Sustainable Development*

Please complete the details below and return it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately. Thank you for your help.

Name: STUART THIT

Postal Address: GLASGOW AND THE GLYDE VALLEY STRUCTURE PLAN JOINT COMMITTEE
LOWER GROUND FLOOR, 125 WEST REGENT STREET, GLASGOW

1. Are you responding as: (please tick one box)

- (a) an individual go to Q2a/b and then Q4
(b) **on behalf of** a group or organisation go to Q3 and then Q4

INDIVIDUALS

2a. Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in the Scottish Executive library and/or on the Scottish Executive website)?

- Yes (go to 2b below)
No, not at all We will treat your response as confidential

2b. Where **confidentiality is not requested**, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (**please tick one** of the following boxes)

- Yes, make my response, name and address all available
Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address
Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:

3. Your name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Executive library and/or on Scottish Executive website). Are you content for your response to be made available?

- Yes
No We will treat your response as confidential

SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

4. We will share your response internally with other Scottish Executive policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Executive to contact you again in the future for consultation or research purposes?

- Yes
No

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